

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 12-19 are pending in the present application. Claim 11 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 10, 12, 13, 15 and 16 are amended by the present amendment.

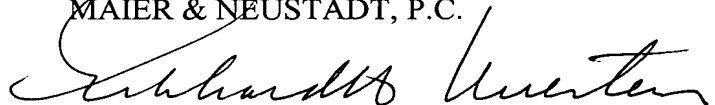
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 10 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Laumen et al. (U.S. Patent 6,396,423, herein "Laumen"); and Claims 11-16 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

At the outset, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 11-16 include allowable subject matter. In light of that indication, Applicants hereby amend Claim 10 to include subject matter of Claim 11 indicated as allowable, and cancel Claim 11. Applicants have also amended Claims 12, 13, 15 and 16 to correct their respective dependencies. No new matter is added.

Consequently, in light of the prior indication of allowable subject matter, the above discussion, and in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and this present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request an early action favorable to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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